

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5352

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: URBAN FOUNDATION

1. MORE THAN 200 OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP BUSINESSMEN AGREED UNANIMOUSLY ON NOVEMBER 30 TO ESTABLISH THE URBAN FOUNDATION WHOSE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO FIND WAYS OF COPING WITH BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS APARTHEID. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF THE URBAN FOUNDATION LARGELY OVERLAPS WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (IIR), WHICH IS CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR C P CILLIERS OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY (SEE JOHANNESBURG A-100)

2. IN A MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER, CILLIERS CALLED THE TWO DAY MEETING ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN BLACK COMMUNITIES LEADING UP TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE URBAN FOUNDATION "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS THE FIRST TIME

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IN 300 YEARS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL RACIAL GROUPS

GOT TOGETHER TO ATALK OPENLY AND FRANKLY ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICAS BLACKS.

3. PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING DECIDED TO:

(A) REJECT COLOR BANS TO EMPLOYMENT AND PROMOTION (JOB RESERVATION);

(B) PROMOTE AND PAY ON THE BASIS OF MERIT;

(C) IMPROVE BLACK HOUSING STANDARDS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES; AND

(D) IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACKS.

4. TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS THE FOUNDATION PLANS TO COORDINATE PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITIES; OFFER ADVICE TO PUBLIC AUTHORITIES; AND MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO GOVERNMENT AS NECESSARY.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, HARRY OPPENHEIMER OF THE GIANT SA CONGLOMERATE ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION, WHO WAS A PRIME MOVER BEHIND BOTH THE FOUNDATION AND THE IIR, SAID THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL FACE A NUMBER OF INITIAL HANDICAPS;

(A) LACK OF RECOGNIZED BLACK TRADE UNIONS;

(B) CURRENT FINANCING OF BLACK COMMUNITY SERVICES BY THE BANTU ADMINISTRATION BOARDS MAINLY FROM LIQUOR SALES;

(C) LEGAL OBSTACLES WITH RESPECT TO BLACK OWNERSHIP OF HOUSES AND FREEHOLD.

6. CILLIERS SAID THE RECENT RIOTS IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OF SOWETO AND ELSEWHERE MADE IT EASIER FOR CONSENSUS TO BE REACHED ON THE FOUNDATIONS OBJECTIVES. IN FACT, SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC SURVEYS HAVE INDICATED THAT URBAN BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AS CONCERNED; IF NOT MORE SO, ABOUT IMPROVING THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS AS THEY ARE ABOUT WAGES AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT. IN FACT, IMMEDIATE BENEFITS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ACCRUE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S COLORED AND ASIAN GROUPS DUE TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABSENCE OF THE OBSTACLES MENTIONED ABOVE.

7. IN A DISCUSSION YESTERDAY WITH BUSINESS EXECUTIVES OF TRUMP ENTERPRISES (SEE FORBES MAGAZINE OF APRIL 1), THEY TOLD CG THEY REGARDED THIS AS HIGHLY IMPORTANT BEGINNING. THSE INVOLVED (OPPENHEIMER, ANTON RUPERT, ET AL) WERE, PARADOXICALLY, SAG'S ONLY EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION AND ONLY EFFECTIVE COLLABORATOR.

FOUNDATION WAS PLEDGED TO PUSH BACK RACIAL BARRIERS
WHICH SAG PRIVATELY HOPED IT WOULD DO AND ENCOURAGED,
YET COULD NOT ADVOCATE PUBLICLY BECAUSE OF BLUE COLLAR
CONSTITUENCY'S NEANDERTHALISM.
JOHNSON

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